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FIRST FLOWERING

A
SELECTION OF
PROSE
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POETRY
BY
THE YOUTH OF CANADA

ANTHONY FRISCH EDITOR

- CONWAY, JEROME KENNETH: Age 17; St. Andrew's College, Aurora, Ontario; Grade XIII. Author of *My Ambition*, p.165.
- CORRIGAN, DIANE: Age 15; Welland High and Vocational School, Welland, Ontario; Grade XIII. Author of *The Little Fir Tree's Story*, p.73; *A Conversation*, p.74.
- CRANSTON, WAYNE: Age 16; Central Collegiate Institute, London, Ontario; Grade XI. Author of *It Can't Happen Here*, p.99.
- CREIGHTON, CYNTHIA: Age 14½; Bishop Strachan School, Toronto, Ontario; Grade XI. Author of *Night*, p.133.
- DICKSON, BOB: Age 18; Sir Adam Beck Collegiate, London, Ontario; Grade XI. Author of *Shenandoah*, p.184.
- DREW, LORNA: Age 17; Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Kirkland Lake, Ontario; Grade XII. Author of *Poem of Beautiful Words; Heavenly Daze*, p.188.
- EAGLESPHAKER, SHIRLEY: Age 16; Cardston High School, Cardston, Alberta; Grade X. Author of *The Sundance*, p.7.
- EARLE, GARY: Age 18; Delhi District High School, Delhi, Ontario; Grade XIII. Author of *Green What?* p.148.
- EARLE, JUDY: Age 17; Rummymede Collegiate Institute, Toronto, Ontario; Grade XII. Author of *Speed*, p.147.
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- EISENHUT, CHARLES R.: Age 13; Admiral Westphal School, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; Grade VIII-A. Author of *The Planets*, p.195.
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- FINDLAY, VALERIE JOAN: Age 15; Weston Collegiate and Vocational School, Weston, Ontario; Grade X. Author of *Wendigo*, p.44.
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- GARON, JEAN: Age 17; Collège des Jésuits de Québec, Québec; Grade Rhétorique. Author of *Eclairc*, p.56.
- GATES, MARION: Age 16; Port Williams School, Port Williams, Nova Scotia; Grade XI. Author of *Autumn*, p.112; *My Dream Ship and Nature's Work*, p.113.
- GATH, WENDY M.: Age 13; Dunnville High School, Dunnville, Ontario; Grade IX. Author of *Winter Etching*, p.29.
- GILLIS, RYAN: Age 14; Rocky Mountain House High School, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta; Grade X. Author of *The Mountain Goat*, p.126.
- GRANT, JOHN A. G.: Age 14; Kapuskasing High School, Kapuskasing, Ontario; Grade XI. Author of *Civilization*, p.35.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Across the darkened sky they flash in splendour
Dancing, flitting, then eerily dashing away
Reds and greens and blues all ever changing
The aurora borealis, like a jewelled spray.

Quickly do they come and quick do they depart
Weirdly lighting up the heavens as they flee
These ever changing ribbons of glory and of awe
Like moonlight on a stormy billowing sea.

Their mysteries are unknown and their tales have not
been heard,
Of the bleak and frozen land from whence they rise,
The glorious Northern Lights of the barren Arctic lands,
The midnight rainbow of the Northern skies.

DALE FRY,
Yukon

WENDIGO

There's a night in an Indian legend
Where the Wendigo walks again:
A chieftain killed once in a battle
Who brings his revenge to men.

The conditions are right for the Wendigo
When thunder racks the sky;
Mothers clasp loved ones to heaving breasts
And pray he'll pass them by.

The brave and dauntless warrior
Hides a tear that blinds his eye
For the lightning is bright, and the thunder right
And perhaps his baby will die.

Oh, what grief so poignant!
A heavy cross to bear
When the baby starts to whimper
And they sense that 'he' is there.

Every louder clap of thunder
Is answered with a sigh
For the Wendigo is seeking
For a baby who will die.

Oh, such agony of feeling
In the heart he fills with dread!
Each moment is so precious
Just one kiss before he's dead!

A vigil of pain, a night of grief
For they know that a baby must die;
Evil walks with the Wendigo
When thunder racks the sky.

VALERIE FINDLAY,
Ontario

Anthony John Frisch
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